

Teen Pregnancy: Gallatin & Park Counties

Why it matters & What can
we do as a community?

Teenage Pregnancy Coalition

An alarming trend

- Despite a one-third decline in teen pregnancy and birth rates since the early 1990s, the teen pregnancy rate in the United States is *still the highest among developed nations*
- One in three teens becomes pregnant by age 20
- One-quarter of teen parents have a second child before they turn 20

Defining pregnancy and birth rate

- Teen pregnancy rate
 - Average number of births for every 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19
- Teen birth rate
 - The number of births to women aged below 20 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 19

National Statistics

- In 2006, there were 41.9 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19
- Between 2005 and 2007, preliminary data indicate the teen birth rate increased 5 %

Montana Statistics

- In 2008, there were 1,680 teen pregnancies or a rate of 51.6 per 1,000 girls aged 15-19
- The rate **increased 7%** between 2007 and 2008
- In 2008, there were 1,312 teen births or a rate of 40.1 per 1,000 girls aged 15-19
- The rate **increased 9%** between 2007 and 2008

Gallatin and Park County Statistics

- In 2005, Gallatin County had 87 per 1,000 girls aged 15-19
- In 2005, Park County had 11 per 1,000 girls aged 15-19
- From 1991-2005, there were 1,296 pregnancies Gallatin County and 329 pregnancies in Park County in girls aged 15-19

Why has there been a rise in teenage pregnancy?

- Increase in teen sexual activity
- Teens are less likely to use contraceptives
- Reaching older teens
- Culture



Increase in Teens' Sexual Activity

- 47 percent of all high school students in the US report having sex at least once and 63% report having sex by the spring semester of their senior year of high school

Teens are less likely to use contraceptives

- Although 80 to 90 % of teens report using contraception the most recent time they had sex, many teenagers do not use contraceptives carefully or consistently. Among 15 to 19 year old girls relying on oral contraceptives, only 70 percent take the pill everyday
- Emphasis of abstinence –only education has not provided young people with enough information about contraceptives and/or encouragement of sexually active teens to use contraceptives consistently

Teens are less likely to use contraceptives

YEAR	% Used a Condom	% Used Birth Control Pill
1991	38.0%	25.0%
1993	46.0%	22.3%
1995	48.6%	20.4%
1997	50.8%	20.5%
1999	50.7%	20.4%
2001	51.3%	21.1%
2003	57.4%	20.6%
2005	55.9%	20.6%
2007	54.9%	18.7%

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, DHHS, Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Risk Factors

- Poverty
- Early school failure
- Early behavioral problems
- Family dysfunction and problems

Why should our community care?

- Cost
- Well being of children born to teenagers
- Education

Cost

- Teen child bearing costs taxpayers at least \$9.1 billion, an average of \$1,430 per teen mother annually
- In Montana, the average annual cost associated with a child born to mother 17 and younger is \$3,285
- Between 1991 and 2004 there have been more than 18,300 teen births in Montana, costing taxpayers a total of \$0.3 billion

Well-being of children

- Children born to teenage mothers are more likely to be born prematurely and at low birth weight
- Children of teen parents suffer higher rates of abuse and neglect
- The sons of teen mothers are two times more likely to end up in prison
- The daughters of young teen mothers are three times more likely to become teen mothers themselves



Education

- 40 % of mothers who have a child before they turn 18 graduate from high school
- Less than 2 % of mothers who have children before age 18 have a college degree by the age of 30
- Only about two-thirds of children born to teen mothers earned a high school diploma compared to 81 % of children born to older mothers
- Children of teenage mothers are 50 % more likely to repeat a grade, less likely to complete high school, and have lower performance on standardized tests



What can we do as a community to combat teenage pregnancy?

“It takes a village to raise a child”

- Evaluate our current sexual education programs
- Parents
- Contraceptive Availability
- Empowerment Programs
- Peer Involvement

Evaluating our current sexual education programs

- Are our sexual education programs creative and stimulating to teens?
- Are our sexual education programs comprehensive?
- Are our sexual education programs starting before the teenage years and ongoing?

Parents- “Lets talk about SEX”

- “Studies show that teenagers-boys and girls alike- who have strong emotional attachments to their parents and are closely supervised by them, are much less likely to become sexually active at an early age and far more likely to use contraception on a consistent basis”

- The Annie E. Casey Foundation

- 47 percent of teens say their parents have the most influences on their sexual decision making
- Often parents are willing to talk to their children about sexuality, but find the conversation awkward and embarrassing
- The TPPC's "House Parties" encourage and give tools to parent to help initiate the conversation about sexuality

Are contraceptives readily available to teens?

- Clinics, such as Bridger Clinic and Community Health Partners provide affordable contraceptives to teens
- Bridger Clinic distributed 30,196 condoms from 2008-2009 and makes them readily available to the public

Empowering Teenagers

- Give young people a credible vision for the future



- ✧ CAP
- ✧ Big Brothers Big Sisters
- ✧ Girls for a Change
- ✧ Big Sky Youth Empowerment Project

Peer Involvement



- “Community-base programs that have genuine youth involvement represent the most effective, long-term and powerful approach to real, sustained changes in teen behavior”

-The Annie E. Casey Foundation

- Stress peer involvement in pregnancy prevention programs
 - Bridger Clinics' Peer Educator Program

Conclusions

- As a community we must address the rise in teenage pregnancy by creating programs, such as the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Coalition to:
 - ✓ Advocate
 - ✓ Raise Public Awareness
 - ✓ Train
 - ✓ Develop Resources
 - ✓ Facilitate Partnerships

Works Cited

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